

Everett

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Memorandum L-119

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Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory
 Massachusetts Institute of Technology
 Cambridge 39, Massachusetts

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SUBJECT: GROUP LEADERS' MEETING, September 14, 1953

To: Group Leaders

From: David R. Brown

Date: September 15, 1953

Present: J. W. Forrester, C. W. Adams, D. R. Brown, S. H. Dodd, R. R. Everett,
J. C. Proctor, N. H. Taylor, C. R. Wieser

- Agenda:
1. Research Assistants
 2. Staff Candidate
 3. Applications Program
 4. General Engineering Group
 5. Installation in Building A
 6. Whittemore Building Conference Room
 7. WWI Memory
 8. Quarterly Progress Report
 9. Technicians
 10. Lincoln Laboratory Seminar
 11. Motion Picture on Computer Applications
 12. Possible Move for Memory Test Computer

1. Research Assistants

Two research assistants working in Group 65 since last June, and one research assistant starting work this month with the expectation of working in Group 65, require placement in other groups of Division 6. They should stay in Cambridge and will be given desks in the basement of the Barta Building if necessary. Proctor will arrange for their placement with Brown, Dodd, and J. A. O'Brien.

The status of research assistants in the laboratory is related to the question of whether or not the Memory Test Computer will be moved to Lexington.

Some reorganization of the Group 62 program is being considered. At the present time, a small section is working on transistor circuits and another section is working on magnetic-core circuits. Both of these activities are outside of the FSQ-7 program and not subject to the same pressures as the rest of the work in Group 62. Perhaps a separate research and development section or group should be set up isolated from the FSQ-7 program to carry on basic component work. This would be an ideal place

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for research assistants and the group would not necessarily be located in Lexington. Such a group should have a specific program. Two items which have been suggested are: (1) computer circuits employing transistors and magnetic-cores, and (2) computer circuits employing magnetic cores and diodes. A primary problem in the establishment of such a group may be finding the space for it. Space in the basement of the Barta Building may be available. The management of such a research and development group should be examined in the near future. Brown, D. Buck, C. Corderman, and P. Youtz should be involved in the examination.

2. Staff Candidate

Brown has received a letter from a friend of his, Dr. Torben Meisling, Assistant Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of California, indicating that he would like to find a position in the East. Meisling has been associated with the CALDIC program at the University of California for the past four years and has been teaching courses on computer design and programming for the past three years. Brown will write him a personal letter explaining the type of work available here.

3. Applications Program

ONR support for the scientific and engineering applications program will be cut to \$100,000 for the fiscal year 1956. In all probability, the funds available for fiscal '54 and '55 can be combined with those for fiscal '56 and the total sum allocated over the three-year period as seems best. Several years from now, the applications program should be studied to determine what future course it should take. At that time such questions as sponsorship, maintenance cost of Whirlwind I, MTC, or some other computing machine will be considered.

4. General Engineering Group

H. Wainwright believes that the facilities available in the general engineering and production control group are not being used to the fullest extent. This group has improved its ability to assist other groups, particularly in mechanical design problems.

5. Installation in Building A

Plans for the installation of AN/FSQ-7(XD-1) in the basement of Building A in Lexington have indicated that more space will be needed or a drastic redesign of the cabinets will be required. Power supplies and air-conditioning require more space than was originally planned. If space were available in the basement of Building B, it might be used for some air-conditioning equipment.

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Forrester is considering the possibility of setting up a separate group to study and undertake the installation in the basement of Building A. Dodd might be the leader of this group. Group 62 and IBM would continue to carry the responsibility for making FSQ-7(XD-1) a working machine. The new group would be concerned with such questions as the allocation of space, outfitting the installation area, the scheduling and assignment of manpower for the installation, the arrangements for acceptance tests, etc.

Two jobs must be performed with XD-1. These are: (1) the determination of modifications for production machines, and (2) the integration of the computer into the Air Defense System. The first of these should be the responsibility of IBM.

Those who are doing the design work on XD-1 should become the systems engineers. The management of XD-1 two years from now need not be worked out at the present time. For the time being, the important thing is to have a person of group-leader stature who can negotiate with AFCRC, the Lincoln Laboratory Director's Office, etc., to make the most satisfactory arrangements for installation of XD-1 in the Lexington Buildings.

We should look carefully at the status of our project and the roles of its senior men in order to obtain a properly balanced and well coordinated long-range program. Increased pressure on FSQ-7 and the completion of one phase of the Cape Cod Program make this an urgent consideration. Some decisions should be reached by October 1.

6. Whittemore Building Conference Room

Eight to ten feet of the third floor Whittemore Building Conference Room will be partitioned off for assignment to MTC.

7. WWI Memory

WWI Memory is now operating with two banks of magnetic-core storage and magnetic-storage control. The speed of operation has been increased so that a clear-and-add operation which previously required 49 microseconds now requires 29 microseconds. An add-one operation which previously required 86 microseconds now requires 35 microseconds. Power has been removed from electrostatic storage. On October 5, the question of dismantling ES control will be considered.

8. Quarterly Progress Report

Division 6 Quarterly Progress Reports are getting later and later. We should attempt to get back on schedule this time. Brief reports can be written to make this possible.

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9. Technicians

The proper supervision of technicians has been a problem in some parts of the Lincoln Laboratory, largely because of the difference in working hours for technicians and staff members. No unsatisfactory conditions have been reported in Division 6 where technicians and staff members work the same hours.

10. Lincoln Laboratory Seminar

The first Lincoln Laboratory Seminar will be held Wednesday night, September 16. F. E. Terman's group will speak on countermeasures.

11. Motion Picture on Computer Application

The movie on computer applications being prepared by Adams' group is nearly completed. All photography is complete and edited. The script, although written, has not been added to the film.

12. Possible Move for Memory Test Computer

The pressure on the Cape Cod System will increase making less desirable time available for scientific and engineering applications. MTC might be made available for Adams' program. If so, it should probably be left in the Whittemore Building. The possibility of doing this will be investigated.

Signed

David R. Brown

David R. Brown
Secretary

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